**Prime Minister's Statement on Simla Agreement**

2619. SHRI S.M. KRISHNA: Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Prime Minister has stated that minor adjustments in Simla Agreement can be made with Pakistan;

(b) if so, the reasons therefor; and

(c) whether the issue ever came up for discussion between the two countries in the past; if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI I.K. GUJRAL): (a) No, Sir.

(b) Does not arise.

(c) No, Sir.

**पासपोर्ट के बिना ही विदेश यात्रा करने वाले लोग**

2620. **श्री नागमणि:** क्या विदेश मंत्री यह बताने की कृपा करेंगे कि:

(क) क्या यह सच है कि बहुत से लोग पासपोर्ट के बिना ही विदेशों में पहुंच जाते हैं;

(ख) यदि हां, तो इस संबंध में गत तीन वर्षों का ब्यौरा क्या है; और

(ग) इस मामले में सरकार की विफलता के क्या कारण हैं तथा उस पर सरकार की क्या प्रतिक्रिया है?

**विदेश मंत्री (श्री इन्द्र कुमार गुजराल):** (क) पासपोर्ट/यात्रा दस्तावेज के बिना विदेश जाने के लिए आप्रवासन जांच चौकियों से गुजर कर भारत से बाहर जाना संभव नहीं है।

(ख) तथा (ग) प्रश्न नहीं उठता।

**Joint celebration of 50th Independence by India and Pakistan**

2621. SHRI K. R. MALKANI: Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Government propose a joint celebration of fifty-years of Independence by India and Pakistan;

(b) whether he has invited a delegation of ten Pakistanis in U.K. to visit India; and

(c) the response of Pakistan to the proposal for joint celebration?

THE MINISTER OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI I. K. GUJRAL): (a) No, Sir.

(b) A group of persons of Pakistani origin from the U.K. expressed an interest to visit India. Their visit was facilitated and usual courtesies extended.

(c) Does not arise?

**Joint exploration of natural gas by India and Bangladesh**

2622. SHRI BRATIN SENGUPTA: SHRI NILOTPAL BASU:

Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have taken up the issue of joint exploration of natural gas with the Government of Bangladesh;

(b) if so, the outcome thereof and details of the follow-up; and

(c) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI I. K. GUJRAL): (a) to (c) Government have not taken up the issue of joint exploration of natural gas with the Government of Bangladesh. However, during the 5th meeting of the India-Bangladesh joint Economic Commission held in New Delhi from March 10—12, 1997, the Bangladesh side intimated that new exploration blocks have been identified for international bidding on a production sharing basis and Indian companies are welcome to participate in such bids.